

REMARKS

This case was interviewed by telephone conference on 11 April 2002 with Examiner Hai Tran and Supervisory Examiner Andrew Faile. Examiner Faile requested that Applicants state their position as discussed during the interview in a formal response to the 19 December 2001 Office action for further consideration by the Office. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.116, applicants believe the claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments:

Regarding claim 39, the element "video cameras" is changed to "camera angles" and "reception site" is changed to "receiver" merely to mirror the language used in the priority document. The scope of these elements are unchanged. The step of receiving the video signals is removed as it is merely redundant to the previous step of "obtaining." The element "control studio" is removed to broaden the scope of the claim.

Priority Claims:

The Office action again rejected Applicants' priority claims to application serial numbers 08/443,607, filed 18 May 1995 ("the '607 application"); 08/166,608, filed 13 December 1993 ("the '608 application"); and 07/797,298; filed 25 November 1991 ("the '298 application"), with regard to all the claims under consideration in this application. The Office action reaffirmed Applicants' priority claim to application serial number 08/598,382, filed 8 February 1996 ("the '382 application").

The Office action suggested the Applicants use the same terminology as used in the priority applications. Applicants have done so in their amendment of claim 39.

During the telephone interview of 11 April 2002, Applicants reiterated their claim of priority to 25 November 1991, specifically with respect to independent claim 39 and the related dependent claims. Applicants believe independent claim 39 has been fully supported by the priority disclosures throughout the entire prosecution of this application. As an aid to the further examination of this claim, Applicants provide the following annotation of support for each of the major elements of the remaining claims.

As the '608 application is a continuation of the '298 application, the specifications are the same, and therefore, for convenience and to show support in the earliest priority case, references to support in those specifications will be made solely to the '298 application as filed.

The element of “live interactive digital programming” in claim 39 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 14 wherein the programming is described as multiple camera angles of a sporting event, which is generally a live broadcast, and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 7 wherein the programming is also described as multiple camera angles of a sporting event, which is generally a live broadcast.

The element of correspondence to “camera angles” of a “live event” in claim 39 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 8 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 7.

The element of “digital video signals” in claim 39 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 12 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 13.

The element of a “receiver” in claim 39 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 13 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 13.

The element of “compressing” in claims 39 and 228 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at pages 9-11 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 8.

The element of “multiplexing” in claims 39 and 228 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 12 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 11.

The element of “transmitting” in claim 39 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 12 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 11.

The element of “demultiplexing” in claims 39 and 228 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 14 and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 13.

The element of “decompressing” in claims 39 and 228 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 14 and in the ’298 application, for example, at pages 13-14.

The element of “selecting” in claims 39 and 228 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 14 and in the ’298 application, for example, at pages 13-14.

The element of a “displaying” in claim 39 is found in the ’607 application, for example, at page 14 as “monitor 10” and “conventional television,” and in the ’298 application, for example, at page 13 variously described as “monitor 10,” “output 10,” and “conventional television.”

The elements of a “satellite transmission system,” a “cable distribution system,” “broadcast transmission system,” and a “telephony network” in claims 40, 41, 42, and 43,

respectively, are found in the '607 application, for example, at page 13 and in the '298 application, for example, at page 12.

The element of "digital audio signals" in claim 228 is found in the '607 application, for example, at page 8 and in the '298 application, for example, at page 7, wherein in both instances the audio signals are subsumed as part of the description of the video signal.

The element of audio signals corresponding to the live event in claim 228, is found in the '607 application, for example, at page 8 and in the '298 application, for example, at page 7, wherein, in both instances, the audio signals are subsumed as part of the description of the video signals of the live camera angles, resulting in an inherent correspondence.

The element of a "playing" the audio signal in claim 228 is found in the '607 application, for example, at page 14 as "monitor 10" and "conventional television," and in the '298 application, for example, at page 13 variously described as "monitor 10," "output 10," and "conventional television," which inherently play audio signals.

The element a video signal comprising a graphic signal in claim 230 is found in the '607 application, for example, at page 14 and in the '298 application, for example, at page 14, wherein the video signal is described as containing statistical information for display.

The elements of basing a video signal selection upon viewer input in claims 232 and 233 are found in the '607 application, for example, at page 14 and in the '298 application, for example, at pages 14-15.

The elements of displaying information and interrogatories to solicit responses from a viewer to effectuate selection of the video signals in claims 232 and 233 are found in the '607 application, for example, at page 16 and in the '298 application, for example, at pages 15-16.

The elements of a "input," "entry," and "viewer selection input" in claims 231, 232, and 233 are found in the '607 application, for example, at page 14 and in the '298 application, for example, at pages 13-14.

The elements of a "sporting event" and "game show" in claims 234 and 235 are found in the '607 application, for example, at page 5 and in the '298 application, for example, at pages 5.

In light of the forgoing explications, Applicants believe that claims 39-43 and 228-235 are supported in the specifications of each of the '607, '608, and '298 applications and are entitled by Applicants' priority claims to an effective filing date of 25 November 2001.

1991

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Office action rejected claims 1-7, 18-31, and 39-52 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. patent number 5,600,368 to Matthews, III, (filing date 9 November 1994) and U.S. patent number 5,585,858 to Harper et al. (effective filing date 15 April 1994).

Applicants initially note that claims 1-7, 18-31, and 44-52 are canceled herein. Applicants reiterate their belief that 25 November 1991 is the effective filing date for the claims remaining herein. Therefore, Matthews, III nor Harper et al. should be obviated as prior art references as applied to the remaining claims. Applicants request the Examiner retract the rejection under § 103 to claims 39-43 and 228-235 remaining in this application indicate their allowance.

Conclusion:

It is believed the Examiner's rejections are inapplicable to the claims presently under consideration in this application for the reasons discussed above. Applicants request that the amendments to the claims as presented herein be entered. Applicants further request the Examiner's rejections be removed and that notification of allowance of the claims be provided without delay.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7, 18-31, and 44-52.

Please amend claim 39 as follows:

(Twice Amended) 39. A method for providing live interactive digital programming comprising:

- obtaining a plurality of video signals from a plurality of ~~video cameras~~ camera angles,
- wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~video cameras~~ camera angles provide a differentiable view of a live event;
- ~~receiving the plurality of video signals in a control studio;~~
- digitally compressing the plurality of video signals;
- digitally multiplexing the plurality of video signals into a combined digital program stream;
- transmitting the combined digital program stream;
- receiving the combined digital program stream at a ~~reception site~~ receiver;
- digitally demultiplexing the plurality of video signals;
- digitally decompressing the plurality of video signals;
- selecting at least one of the plurality of video signals; and
- displaying the selected video signal.

(Twice Amended) 43. The method of claim 39, wherein the combined digital program stream is transmitted ~~within a private network~~ over a telephony network.

Please add the following new claims:

228. The method of claim 39 further comprising:

- producing an audio signal corresponding to the live event; and wherein
- the step of digitally compressing further comprises digitally compressing the

audio signal;

the step of digitally multiplexing further comprises digitally multiplexing the audio signal into the combined digital program stream;

the step of digitally demultiplexing further comprises digitally demultiplexing the audio signal;

the step of digitally decompressing further comprises digitally decompressing the audio signal;

the step of selecting further comprises selecting the audio signal; and
wherein the method further comprises playing the selected audio signal.

229. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of transmitting further comprises transmitting the combined digital program stream within a single channel bandwidth.

230. The method of claim 39, wherein at least one of the plurality of video signals comprises a graphic image signal.

231. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of selecting is performed in response to input by a viewer.

232. The method of claim 39 further comprising:
displaying an interrogatory to a viewer, the content of the interrogatory involving video signal selection options;
collecting an entry from the viewer in response to the interrogatory; and
wherein the step of selecting is effectuated, at least in part, on the collected viewer entry.

233. The method of claim 39 further comprising:
displaying information to a viewer regarding video signal selection options;
receiving a selection input from the viewer in response to the information; and
wherein the step of selecting is effectuated, at least in part, on the received viewer selection input.

- 234. The method of claim 39, wherein the live event comprises a sporting event.
- 235. The method of claim 39, wherein the live event comprises a game show.

Extension of Time:

Additionally, filed herewith is a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time and a check for the appropriate fees.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Dated: 19 April 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad J. Hattenbach", written over a horizontal line.

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